

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A printing method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

dividing print data of a first print data source into a plurality of data blocks each containing a plurality of pages;

generating resource data from each data block and converting ~~the~~ page print data of each data block to display data by using the resource data;

printing ~~the~~ display data of a data block; and

clearing the resource data and granting permission to a print request from a second print data source when the display data of the data block of the first print data source has been printed.

2. (Amended) A printing method for first and second print data sources, said first and second print data sources respectively producing first and second print data, each of the print data being divided into a plurality of data blocks each containing multiple pages, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

a) printing a data block of said first print data when said first print data source is requesting a print of said first print data;

b) repeating step (a) if said second print data source is not producing said second print data; and

c) printing a data block of said second print data if said second print data source is requesting a print of said second print data.

3. (Original) The printing method of claim 2, wherein a number of said multiple pages contained in each of said blocks of said first and second print data are variable.

4. (Amended) The printing method of claim 2, further comprising ~~the step of repeating-step (a) or (c) depending on whether said first print data source is requesting a print of said first print data or said second print data source is requesting a print of said second print data.~~

5. (Amended) The printing method of claim 2, wherein each of said first and second print data contains a command signal, and wherein ~~step (b) further comprises the step of detecting the command signal in said first print data and repeating-step (a) if the command signal is detected, and wherein step (c) further comprises the step of detecting the command signal in said second print data and repeating-step (c) if the command signal is detected.~~

6. (Amended) The printing method of claim 2, ~~wherein step (a) further comprises the steps of:~~

- a₁) generating resource data from [[a]] said data block of said first print data;
- a₂) storing the resource data in memory;
- a₃) converting each page data to display data using the resource data stored in said a memory; and
- a₄) clearing the resource data when the display data of said data block is printed.

7. (Amended) The printing method of claim 2, wherein each of said first and second print data contains configuration data for determining a plurality of print conditions, the method further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

storing the configuration data in a buffer; and

repeatedly using the stored configuration data when the display data of said data block is printed either step (a) or step (c).

8. (Amended) A printing method for first, second and third print data sources which produce first, second and third print data respectively, each of the first, second and third print data containing a plurality of data blocks each containing a plurality of pages, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) assigning higher a first priority to said second interface source and lower a second priority to said third interface source, wherein the first priority is higher than the second priority;
- b) printing a data block of said first print data when said first print data source is requesting a print of said first print data;
- c) repeating step (b) if said second and third print data sources are not producing said second and third print data;
- d) printing a data block of said second print data if said second print data source is requesting a print of requests for printing said second print data, regardless of whether said third print data source is requesting a print of requests for printing said third print data; and
- e) printing a data block of said third print data if said third print data source is requesting a print of said third print data.

9. (Amended) A printer controller comprising:

[[a]] first and second interfaces respectively connected to first and second print data sources, said first and second print data sources respectively producing first and second print data, each of the first and second print data comprising a plurality of data blocks each containing a plurality of pages; and

a control module ~~for receiving~~ that receives the first print data from said first interface if said first print data source is requesting a print of said first print data for printing on a printer, and ~~receiving~~ receives the second print data from said second interface for printing on said printer if said second print data source is requesting a print of said second print data;

wherein, after a data block in the first print data is printed, the control module checks to see if the second print data source is requesting a print before a next data block in the first print data is printed.

10. (Amended) The printer controller of claim 9, further comprising a converter ~~for converting~~ that converts print data to display data, wherein said control module directs said converter to convert a data block of the first print data to display data and supplies the display data to the printer.

11. (Amended) The printer controller of claim 9, further comprising at least one buffer for storing ~~[[a]]~~ said data block of one of said first and second print data.

12. (Original) The printer controller of claim 9, further comprising first and second buffers connected to the first and second interfaces, respectively, said first buffer storing a plurality of data blocks of said first print data, and said second buffer storing a plurality of data blocks of said second print data.

13. (Amended) The printer controller of claim 9, further comprising a memory, and wherein the control module ~~has the functions of:~~

~~generating~~ generates resource data from ~~[[a]]~~ said data block of said first print data;

~~storing~~ stores the resource data in said memory;

~~converting~~ converts each print data to display using the resource data stored in said memory; and

~~clearing~~ clears said resource data when the display data of said data block has been printed.

14. (Original) The printer controller of claim 9, further comprising a buffer, and wherein said each of said first and second print data contains configuration data for determining a plurality of print conditions, and said control module stores the configuration data for said printer before multiple page data of next group are printed.

15. (Amended) A printer controller comprising:

first, second and third interfaces respectively connected to first, second and third print data sources, said first, second and third print data sources respectively producing first, second and third print data, each of the print data comprising a plurality of data blocks each containing a plurality of pages, said second interface being assigned ~~higher a first~~ priority and said third interface being assigned ~~lower a second~~ priority, wherein the first priority is higher than the second priority; and

a control module ~~for receiving~~ receives a data block of said first print data from the first interface for printing on a printer, ~~receiving~~ receives a data block of said second print data from the second interface if a first print request is received therefrom after printing has been performed on the data block of the first print data for processing on said printer, regardless of whether said third print data source is requesting a print of said third print data, and ~~receiving~~ receives a data block of the third print data from the third interface if a second print request is received therefrom after printing has been performed on the data block of the second print data.

16. (Amended) The printer controller of claim 15, further comprising a converter for converting print data to display data, wherein said control module directs said converter to convert [[a]] said data block of the first print data to display data and supplies the display data to the printer.

17. (Original) The printer controller of claim 15, further comprising at least one buffer for storing a data block of one of said first and second print data.

18. (Amended) The printer controller of claim [[9]] 15, further comprising first, second and third buffers connected to the first, second and third interfaces, respectively, said first buffer storing a plurality of data blocks of said first print data, said second buffer storing a plurality of data blocks of said second print data, and said third buffer storing a plurality of data blocks of said third print data.

19. (Amended) The printer controller of claim 15, further comprising a memory, and wherein the control module ~~has the functions of:~~

~~generating generates~~ resource data from [[a]] said data block of said first print data;

~~storing stores~~ the resource data in said memory;

~~converting converts~~ the first print data to display data using the resource data stored in said memory; and

~~clearing clears~~ aid resource data when the display data of said data block has been printed.

20. (New) A printing system comprising first and second print data sources and a printer controller of claim 9, wherein the first print data source is a host computer.